

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 95093 281740Z

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ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6722

UNCLAS DUBLIN 95093

E. O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OREP (BIAGGI, MARIO) EI

SUBJ: CODEL BIAGGI

REF: STATE 95093

1. "IRISH TIMES" APRIL 28 CARRIES ARTICLE FROM SEAN CRONIN IN NEW YORK. IT BEGINS: "MARIO BIAGGI, A DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSMAN FROM THE BRONX, WILL TRAVEL TO DUBLIN ON WEDNESDAY TO FIND OUT WHY U.S. VISAS ARE BEING DENIED SUCH SPOKESMEN OF PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN AS RUARRI O BRADIAIGH, ITS PRESIDENT, AND SEAMUS LOUGHRAN, ITS BELFAST ORGANISER. HE WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE PROSPECT OF A PERMANENT PEACE IN THE NORTH. THE CONGRESSMAN, A LONG-TIME SUPPORTER OF NORTHERN AID, IS UNDERTAKING THE MISSION ON BEHALF OF A NEW LOBBYING GROUP CALLED THE IRISH NATIONAL CAUCUS. HE PLANS TO HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE IN DUBLIN. HE WILL ALSO MEET OFFICIALS OF THE U.S. EMBASSY. AND HE HAS ASKED THE IRISH AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON FOR PERMISSION TO VISIT PORTLAOISE PRISON."

2. ON SUBJECT OF CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, ARTICLE SAYS: "CONGRESSMAN LESTER WOLFF'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS SUB-COMMITTEE EXPECTS TO START HEARINGS ON NORTHERN IRELAND SOON. THE SCHEDULING IS UP TO CONGRESSMAN THOMAS MORGAN, A DEMOCRAT FROM PENNSYLVANIA, WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF THE FULL FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, AND THERE HAVE BEEN DELAYS. THE CAUCUS SAYS THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN EXERTING PRESSURE TO DROP THE HEARINGS. ONE STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL WARNED WOLFF HE WAS 'CONSORTING WITH TERRORISTS'."

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EM CRONIS DESCRIBES IRISH NATIONAL CAUCUS IN TERMS WHICH ARE BOUND TO CAUSE RESENTMENT IN IRELAND. HE SAYS THAT ITS "NATIONAL COORDINATOR" IS REV. SEAN MCMANUS, A PRIEST WHO HAD ONE BROTHER KILLED ON IRA DUTY. CAUCUS IS GIVEN CREDIT FOR GETTING AFL-CIO TO PASS A RESOLUTION BLAMING LONDON AND DUBLIN GOVTS FOR "POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REPRESSION."

4. SINCE CODEL BIAGGI VISIT HAS RECEIVED UNFAVORABLE LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE, WE THINK IT ESPECIALLY DESIRABLE FOR HIM TO PAY COURTESY CALL ON GOI. WE WILL BE GLAD TO TRY TO MAKE APPOINTMENT IF CODEL WISHES. ALL OTHER CONGRESSMEN VISITING DUBLIN ON SIMILAR MISSIONS HAVE, AS FAR AS WE CAN RECALL, MADE SUCH COURTESY CALLS.
REND AHL

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